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COMMENT OF THE DAY

The Elections

THAT only 40 per cent of those eligible to register for a vote in the forthcoming Urban Council election have done so would appear to confirm conclusively the oft repeated claim that the majority of Hongkong residents are not vitally interested in obtaining the franchise. Certainly the five candidates have reason to feel disappointed with the response to Government's endeavour to widen the Urban Council electorate. Nevertheless even this display of apparent apathy must be measured with care. The vote in Hongkong, so far as it extends today, is a privilege and not a duty. In Australia, for example, voting is compulsory for all those who appear on the electoral rolls; here, as in England and other countries, it is a free will concession. This also applies to the act of registration for the Urban Council polls, and it is more than probable that large numbers of residents who qualify for registration have refrained from making use of the privilege because they are frankly not interested in elections of any nature and possess no desire to participate in civic affairs in any shape or form. It is an attitude which may be difficult to understand, but that it exists must be accepted by everyone interested in the Urban Council elections with as good grace as possible.

THE candidates can derive one consolation. It may be taken for granted that the 4,000 who have registered their names intend to vote. More difficult to estimate is the proportion of electors on the jury lists that will make use of their franchise. It has been computed by the Returning Officer that the total electorate for the March 24 poll will be in the region of 13,000, and judged by any standards where the system of voluntary voting applies, a final poll of 75 per cent would be considered satisfactory. Thus chief interest now centres on the number of voters who will decide to exercise their privilege later this month. Clearly it is within the power of the candidates to stimulate the electorate to make full use of the franchise. It is the candidates who can best estimate the importance of the Urban Council elections and convince the voters of this importance. The campaign to date has not been particularly lively. One would like to see the old English system of hustings employed. But there is still plenty of opportunity for the candidates to capture the imagination and interest of the electors and to ensure that when polling day arrives the voters will not remain apathetic.

LIVELY CANAL ZONE DEBATE

Labour Motion Lost In The Commons

"WITHDRAW ALL TROOPS" DEMAND IS MADE

London, Mar. 11. A Labour motion deploring the British government's handling of the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations on the Suez Canal issue was defeated in the House of Commons tonight by 271 votes to 219.

The motion was introduced by Mrs Barbara Castle, a member of the Labour Party Left-Wing headed by Aneurin Bevan. The motion called attention to the living conditions of the troops in the Canal zone, which, it said, had deteriorated since 1951 due to uncertainty as to the future of the base. The motion deplored the government's handling of the negotiations, which prolonged the uncertainty.

Mrs Barbara Castle, speaking officially for the whole Labour opposition, described the Canal Zone situation as similar to a concentration camp. She added: "The theory is that they are defending a life line of the empire. In fact, they are trying to protect our installations against the depredations of the local inhabitants."

"It is the worst the army can offer", she said. "One way of ending these conditions is by withdrawing all our troops and equipment by 1956. The other is by reaching an agreement with Egypt under which we should co-operate with them to maintain the base. In either case, our fighting troops would have to go."

Turning to the political aspect, Mrs Castle attacked the Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, and the Conservative back-benchers. Captain Charles Waterhouse, she said: "These conditions, with their threat to the morale of our army, are being allowed to continue, because of the activities of Captain Waterhouse. She also referred to the 'Trojan horse' on the government front bench in the person of the Prime Minister himself."

Mrs Barbara Castle asserted: "It is the Prime Minister who is acting in the teeth of the advice of all his experts, both in the War Office and the Foreign Office, out of a devotion to sentimental memories of the past."

Counter-attacking for the government, Captain Waterhouse, who heads a group of Conservatives opposed to any evacuation of the Canal Zone, said: "It is nonsense to say we are there in the old imperialistic sense. We have a right to be in Egypt under our treaty."

Amid applause from his own side of the House and constant interruption on the opposition side, Captain Waterhouse asserted that the Labour members wanted the government to take anything from anyone in order to reach an agreement. He asked: "Can anyone really say that the happenings of the last few days and weeks in Cairo is any justification for blaming the government for not having come to an agreement?"

The Labour members shouted: "Yes, certainly." Captain Waterhouse went on to assert that one stabilising factor during the recent troubled weeks in the Middle East and in Khartoum had been the presence of British forces.

He was then interrupted by the barracking from the opposition members, former War Minister John Strachey and Mr Aneurin Bevan.

Captain Waterhouse continued: "As long as we are talking about evacuation, what chance have the government of coming to an agreement with Egypt on any terms except complete evacuation?"—France-Press.

"Standing On Treaty Rights"

London, Mar. 11. Socialist Opposition and Conservative backbenchers, condemning the government's policy in Egypt for opposing reasons, opened fire on Sir Winston Churchill's Cabinet from both sides of the House of Commons tonight.

British troops in the Suez were causing Egypt's "instability", the Socialists charged. They introduced a resolution deploring government policy in not carrying out withdrawal from the Canal Zone.

"We are not encroaching on Egypt, we are standing on our treaty rights," replied the back-bench Conservatives who rebelled against the withdrawal negotiations.

These widely-opposing factions seized on the debate of the 1954-55 Army estimates to force their case on to the floor of the Commons.

Mrs Barbara Castle, Labour M.P., based her motion on "living conditions of the troops in the Canal Zone". She asked the House to resolve that noting the deterioration since 1951 in the living conditions... due to the uncertainty as to the future of the base, (it) deplores

the government's handling of the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations, which has prolonged this uncertainty."

Mr R. H. S. Crossman (Lab) backed her up, charging, "Those who think you can hold down all Egypt with one brigade are living in a dream world."

Captain Charles Waterhouse, a leader of the Conservative "rump", stated his case against withdrawal in a fiery debate that soon left the issue of Army estimates far behind.

"There is still a treaty in existence," he said. "We are not encroaching on Egypt, we are standing on our treaty rights."

Though of both sides, they tangled with each other. The former Socialist Defence Minister, Mr John Strachey, who opened the Labour case against the Army estimates, interrupted Captain Waterhouse to comment: "We have far more troops there than our treaty rights allow."

"I am fully aware of that," replied Captain Waterhouse. "We have been forced to do it by the ineptitude of the government of which," he (Strachey) was a member."

Mr Aneurin Bevan, leader of the Labour Party's outspoken Left Wing, said the Socialists "admit" responsibility for this violation of treaty rights in Egypt.

"So is the present government responsible," he said. "The people who are right obviously are Egyptians."

Captain Waterhouse: "We asked to negotiate. But everything that has happened in the last year tends to prove that our prognostications have been proved to be right. Having made the maximum gesture in Egypt over the Canal, we find them calling out loud and clear for unity and for the independence of the Nile Valley. What can be done?"

FIRM STEP REQUIRED
"So long as we dangle evacuation in front of the Egyptians, agreement is impossible. We have to take a firm step and say, we are not going until such time as you can protect yourselves. Then I think we have a better chance of coming to an agreement than we have today."

Mr D. W. Griffiths (Lab) replied that he thought nothing short of complete evacuation would bring about "cordial relations between our two countries."

lations between our two countries."

Mr Strachey, opening the Labour debate, blamed the British troops in the Suez for the "instability" of the Egyptian government. He said that by keeping them there, "Egypt can be kept in turmoil and an unstable government will emerge."

Captain Waterhouse replied that the "one element of stability in Egypt has been the British force. During these last three troubled weeks in the Middle East when the President has been put under arrest, let out, half reinstated, and now completely reinstated, and when the second lieutenant congratulated himself for not cutting his leader's throat."

Captain Waterhouse also replied to Socialist objections that maintaining troops in the "concentration camp" of the Canal Zone, as Mr Strachey put it, hampered the morale of the Army.

"There is nothing fresh in British soldiers being asked to accept such conditions," he said. "We have rearmend primarily in an endeavour to preserve peace and... if it is necessary to do it, we are going to do it. I am sure no British soldier of the unit is anything but perfectly prepared to serve there."

CANAL'S SECURITY
He said as far as he was concerned the Suez base could be "done away with". But he was "vitaly concerned" that, with "keeping in that part of the world a force which would maintain the security of the Canal and our rights in the Middle East and protect our friends in Africa."

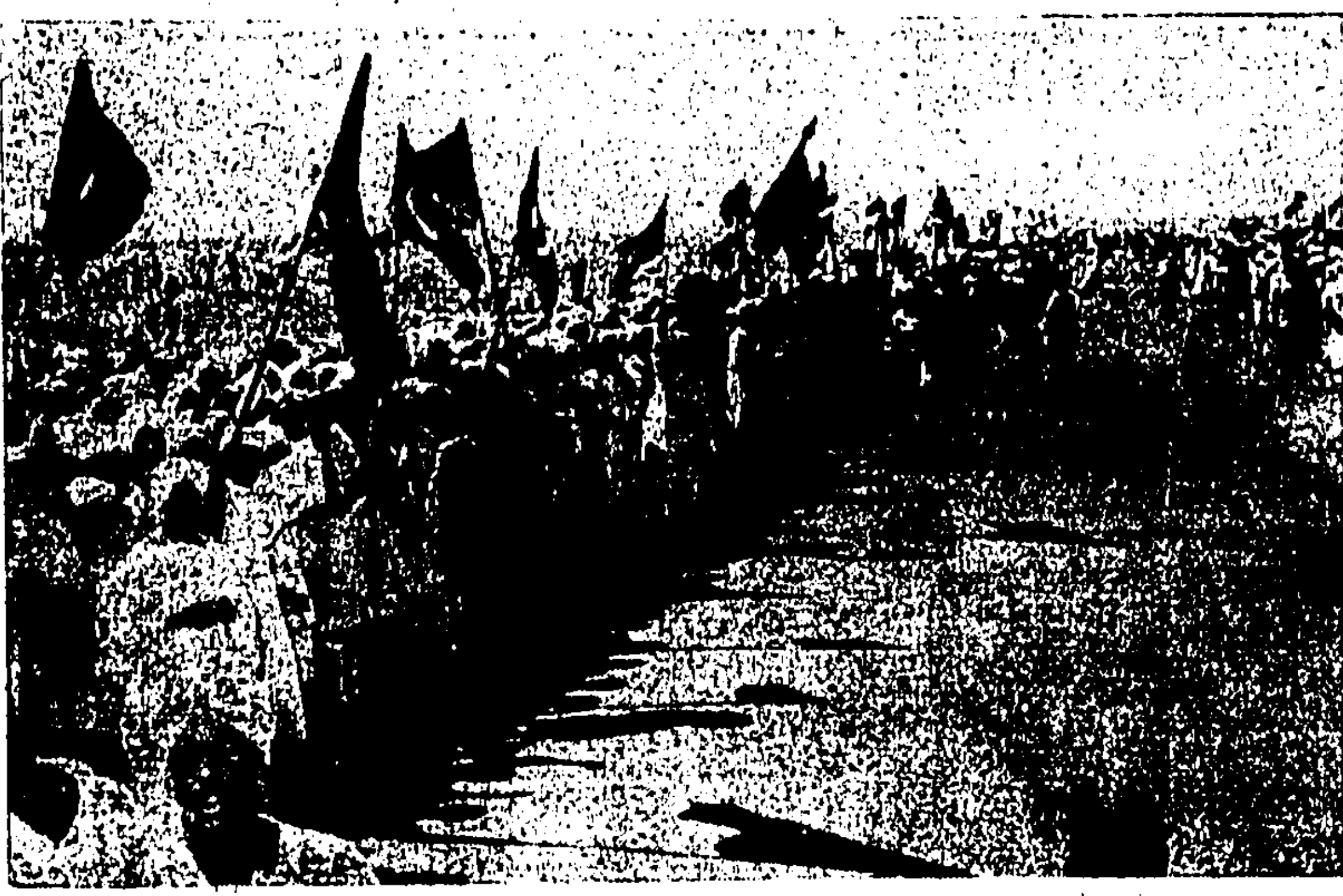
"Until Egypt is herself able and willing to preserve the Canal and preserve security in her area," said Captain Waterhouse, "we should see to it that we are going to retain an armed force at some strategic point in that base."

Mr Crossman said that after 1956 Britain must evacuate all troops and equipment, reconquer the Egyptians, or have an agreement with them.

"The government has recognised the realities of the situation, but has not the guts to sign the treaty," he said. "They are sacrificing the possible basis of keeping the Middle East on our side."

"We say to the government on behalf of the Army and of (Contd. on Page 249, Col. 8.)

RIOTS IN THE SUDAN



Red China In UN

"Essential" Says Molotov

Moscow, Mar. 11. Foreign Minister Vyacheslav M. Molotov said today it is "essential and urgent" that Red China should be given a place in the United Nations.

In addressing a political meeting in the Molotovskiy Constituency, where he is a candidate for the Supreme Soviet, Russia's parliament, Mr Molotov said the Big Four Foreign Ministers' conference in Berlin was "an important step forward." He added that the Russian people "note with satisfaction that China is taking its legitimate place" in the Geneva conference scheduled for April 26.

The Berlin conference was important, he said, because of the decision to convene a conference at Geneva where the five powers will discuss "the unfinished Korean question and the restoration of peace in India-China where the people are carrying out a prolonged struggle for freedom and national rights."

Mr Molotov said, "The development of international events makes even more essential and urgent the restoration of China's rights and its rights in the United Nations."

ARMS RACE

In reviewing the international situation, the Russian Foreign Minister said, "The arms race continues. The military budgets of the countries of the aggressive camps are as before raised high."

"The accumulation of atomic weapons goes on. On the territories of a number of European and non-European states, United States military bases are being built that are directed against the Soviet Union and the peoples' democracies."

Mr Molotov said Russia proposed a European collective security system during the Berlin conference, but that it was claimed Russia would gain "undesirable advantages" in such a system because of its status as a big power.

"Nevertheless," he said, "the Soviet Union does not claim any special position in a system of collective European security... The critical remarks made against this project have not diminished the peace-loving significance of this Soviet proposal."—United Press.

MAY BE GIVEN STATEHOOD

Washington, Mar. 11. The Senate voted today to add statehood for Alaska to a pending Hawaiian statehood bill.

The Democrat-led move to tie the two statehood bills together was approved on a 45-43 roll call vote.—United Press.

The scene in Khartoum and the demonstrators, some carrying banners, await the arrival of the car carrying President Naguib of Egypt, newly arrived by air from Cairo. The president after the riots, spent the night guarded by British Troops. — London Express.

The Public Applauded

Washington, Mar. 11. Bursts of applause came from the public benches today when two Democrats of Senator Joseph McCarthy's Communist-probing Sub-committee intervened to support a negro woman, Mrs Annie Lee Moss, who was under investigation.

Mrs Moss, 48, suspended from her job in the Communications Section of the United States Defense Department, testified today that she had never been a Communist.

Senator Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri, said: "I think you are telling the truth. If you are not taken back into your job in the army you come around and see me and I am going to see you get another one."

Senator J. L. McLellan, Democrat of Arkansas, supported his fellow Democrat in rebuking Mr Roy Cohn, Senator McCarthy's assistant, for inserting in the records a statement that the Sub-committee had received evidence from a witness who "knew" Mrs Moss was a Communist.

Senator McLellan declared amid applause: "I don't like to try people by hearsay evidence. I don't think it is fair to a witness."

Republican Senator K. E. Mundt of South Dakota, presiding during the temporary absence of Senator McCarthy, ordered Mr Cohn's statement to be deleted from the record.—Reuter.

GAOLED FOR CONTEMPT

New York, Mar. 11. Julio Pinto Gandin, leader of Puerto Rican Nationalists in New York, was sentenced to six months imprisonment today for contempt of court.

He twice refused to answer questions put to him by a Federal Grand Jury about last week's shooting of five United States Congressmen by Puerto Rican Nationalists. Authorities contend the shooting was planned in New York.—Reuter.

NICOLL SAILS

Singapore, Mar. 11. The Governor of Singapore, Sir John Nicoll, today sailed in the Dutch liner William Ruys to confer with the Secretary of State for Colonies, Mr Oliver Lyttelton, on Singapore's new constitution.

Sir John said before he sailed he hoped the Constitution would be working "within a year".—Reuter.

Paratroop Drop: Two Killed, 30 Injured

Fort Bragg, N. Carolina, Mar. 11.

Two paratroopers were killed and 30 injured today when 9,000 men leaped into space in "Exercise Longthrust", the biggest peacetime airborne operation ever held in the United States.

Army spokesmen said an investigation was started immediately to determine how the men were killed. They said some of the injuries occurred when the men hit trees.

One of the injured paratroopers was in critical condition at the base hospital, and three others were in serious condition. The hospital said 15 of the injured would be released within three days.

About 200 C-119 flying box-cars and giant C-123 assault aircraft dropped 9,000 fully-equipped paratroopers, artillery and heavy equipment within a few hours in the operation.

Maj-Gen. Francis Farrell, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, and Maj-Gen. Wayne Smith, 10th Corps Commander, jumped with the paratroopers.

The spectacular airborne assault was the 82nd's last major rehearsal for "Exercise Flashburn" next month when 60,000 men will take part in a field exercise stressing atomic weapons.

THICK WITH MEN

Advance elements of the main attack force dropped into the zones about an hour after dawn and, by mid-afternoon, the skies were thick with thousands of paratroopers. Jeeps and some heavy equipment thudded to earth, shortly afterward, ten chutes ranging up to 100 feet in diameter.

The Division hurled the main weight of its battle troops against mock "aggressor" forces in an exercise patterned after the 82nd's combat jumps into Sicily, Normandy and Holland during World War II. The drop zones, three-quarters of a mile long and about a half-mile wide, are named after those encounters—"Sicily North", "Sicily South", "Normandy" and "Holland".

The huge C-123 cargo planes brought in heavy weapons and equipment after the battle began and troops set up to secure commanding terrain against the resistance of the "aggressor".

Many of America's highest-ranking Army officers were on hand as observers of the manoeuvres, but the Army closed the area to all but official spectators.—United Press.

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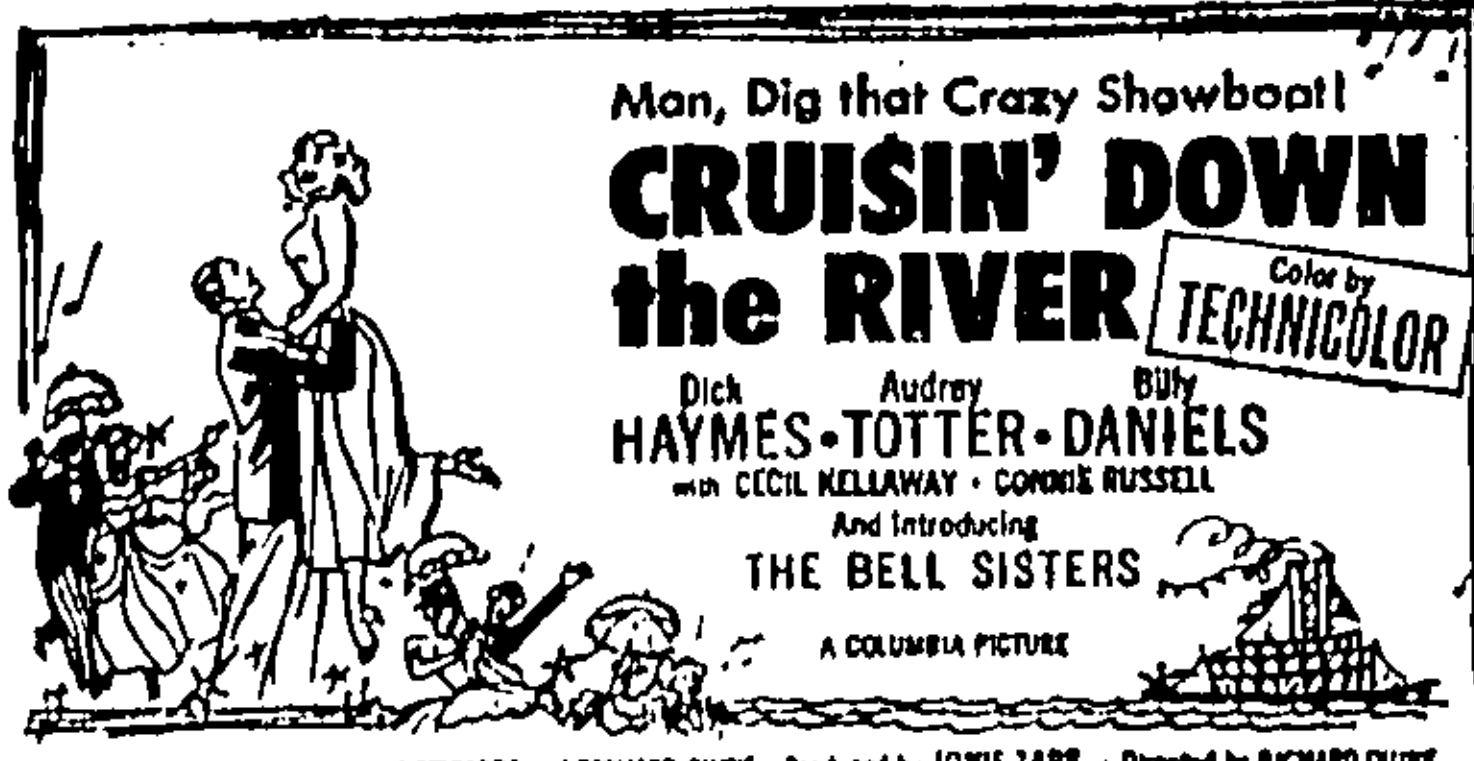
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PROGRESS IN VIETNAM TALKS Prospects Of Agreement Are Brighter

Paris, Mar. 12.

Franco-Vietnamese negotiations on full independence for Vietnam within the French Union will resume here today with prospects somewhat brighter than seemed two days ago.

After the French National Assembly's resolution on Tuesday, threatening by implication to withdraw French troops from Indo-China if the Vietnam Government did not agree to remain in the Union, there was a danger that the Vietnamese delegates would return home to Saigon as the heroes of nationalism.

But oil was poured on troubled water at a lunch yesterday between the French Prime Minister, Mr Joseph Laniel, and the Vietnam Prime Minister, Prince Buu Loc.

The Vietnam leader pointed out that his Government had never repudiated its membership of the French Union and that the Head of State, ex-Emperor Bao Dai, had even asked for a strengthening of the central organs of the Union.

But he recalled that the French themselves had agreed that independence must be complete and that the Union would be all the stronger if its members adhered to it in full freedom.

IN ITS POCKET

But on the French side there are certain fears that if the agreement takes this form the Vietnam Parliament may eventually ratify only the treaty of independence.

The Vietnam delegation is under pressure from extreme Nationalists at home who want independence without any conditions.

But the Vietnam Government intends to go to the Geneva Far East conference next month with the independence treaty in its pocket, to avoid any accusation from the Chinese Communists or Vietnamese rebel delegates of being French puppets.

To get this treaty of independence in time for the Geneva talks, which open on April 26, the Vietnam delegates will have to meet the French viewpoint about membership of the Union at least half way.—Router.

Harding Leaves Kenya

Nairobi, Mar. 11.

Field Marshal Sir John Harding, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, left here by air for London tonight after completing an investigation of military operations against Mau Mau terrorists.

Sir John Harding arrived in the Colony 12 days ago, but flew to British Middle-East Army Headquarters last week-end and spent three days there before returning yesterday.

He spent today with Mr Oliver Lyttelton, British Colonial Secretary, at Government House, advising on the setting up of a secretariat to Kenya's new "war council," announced yesterday by the Colonial Secretary.

The "war council" of four, including the Governor, Sir Evelyn Baring, will direct the campaign to end the Mau Mau emergency.—Router.



Russia Tempts The West With Her Oil

London, Mar. 11.

Russia is offering oil on a growing scale to non-Communist markets as a bait to force her way into international trade, official British sources said today.

Known Russian deals with countries outside the Iron Curtain have revealed that she intends to double her shipments of oil this year, the sources said.

The latest proof of Moscow's master plan is her agreement with Egypt, disclosed yesterday, in which Soviet bloc oil figures prominently.

Russian oil is being offered at present to Israel, Argentina, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, France and other West European nations.

All indications are at present, experts cautioned, that Soviet bloc oil exports this year may exceed 4,000,000 tons against 2,000,000 tons last year and only 1,000,000 in 1952.

FROM SATELLITES

Much of this oil comes from Russia's satellite Rumania whose oil fields are in full operation. Austrian oil, too, controlled and exploited by Russia, plays an important part in this policy.

Latest deals, in addition to that with Egypt, include a 1,000,000 tons crude oil offer to Israel in exchange for oranges, with an option for a further 100,000 tons, and an offer reported in the region of US\$5,000,000 worth to Germany.

These moves coincide with the West's effort to get the Iranian oil industry going again and to find outlets for Persian supplies in the face of saturated world oil markets.

Prices are understood to be in keeping with current market quotations, at least there are no obvious signs of dumping, according to the informants.

INCREASING

The authoritative Petroleum Press Service claims that Russian production has been increasing in the past few years by between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000 tons a year and is now in the region of some 32,500,000 tons per annum. Russia's target for 1955 is 70,000,000 tons.

Her own internal needs are growing, but they are still much below the average needs of the West because motor transport is on a minute scale. Estimates are that for at least a few more years the Russian bloc may therefore be able to offer oil for export in substantial quantity.—United Press.

"Soon Be Common For People To Live To 100"

New York, Mar. 11.

The President of the American Medical Association, Dr Edward McCormick, believes it will soon be common for people to live to 100.

Dr McCormick, addressing the Omaha Centennial Science Forum last night, said the peak in life expectancy had probably not been reached.

"In my life-time it has been raised from 33 to 66," he said.

Dr McCormick said increased knowledge about diseases of the heart and arteries should lengthen the life span still more.

He said there was no doubt that polio would soon be conquered. If the vaccine to be tested this year was not successful, he said, an effective vaccine would soon be developed.

Dr McCormick also said he was optimistic about finding a cure for cancer. He said that the disease would probably be "prevented" within five to 10 years through development of a drug.—United Press.

Improvement In Burma Situation Forecast

Rangoon, Mar. 11.

There is now some optimism in Rangoon that by the time the monsoon starts in May, Burma will have broken the back of two of her most serious internal problems — the Karen rebellion and Chinese Nationalist activity in the Shan states.

Though total victories against these forces cannot be expected for some time, it is thought possible that the main concentrations will be split up by evacuation, surrender or defeat, leaving only small bands of guerrillas to be mopped up.

If government forces could gain a firm grip on the northern part of Tenasserim and the southern area of Kengtung state, where Karens and Khamtiang guerrillas respectively now operate in force, several battalions could be released for the task of wiping out pockets of armed Communists who are also scattered throughout the country.

The Communists control much of south-eastern Tenasserim, which is rich in tin and rubber, while their bands in Central Burma are still active.

More troops are also wanted in the West of the country where Mujahid bands (Muslims calling for a separate Arakan state) are causing considerable concern by the renewed plunderings in the area bordering Pakistan.

After five years sporadic fighting, the Karen rebellion, which originally began as a fight for an independent Karen state which has now become disunity (armed banditry) on a large scale, seems to be nearing an end.

Since the beginning of the year three groups of over 100 rebels have surrendered as well as many small bands and there is the promise of more in the near future.

GOOD FIGHTERS

The Karens, though good fighters, are realizing that their struggle is now futile and that a peaceful settlement and acceptance of the state which has already been granted them within the Union of Burma, will serve their own interests best.

Some "die-hards" will continue the struggle, especially in the delta where a few small bands are still active.

More than 3,000 had left Burma by the beginning of this month and there is the possibility that 2,000 who joined the Karen rebels in Tenasserim may agree to be evacuated.

The combined efforts of force and negotiation could rid Eastern Burma within the next few months of the KMT menace which she has endured since the forces first retreated from China four years ago.—China Mail Special.

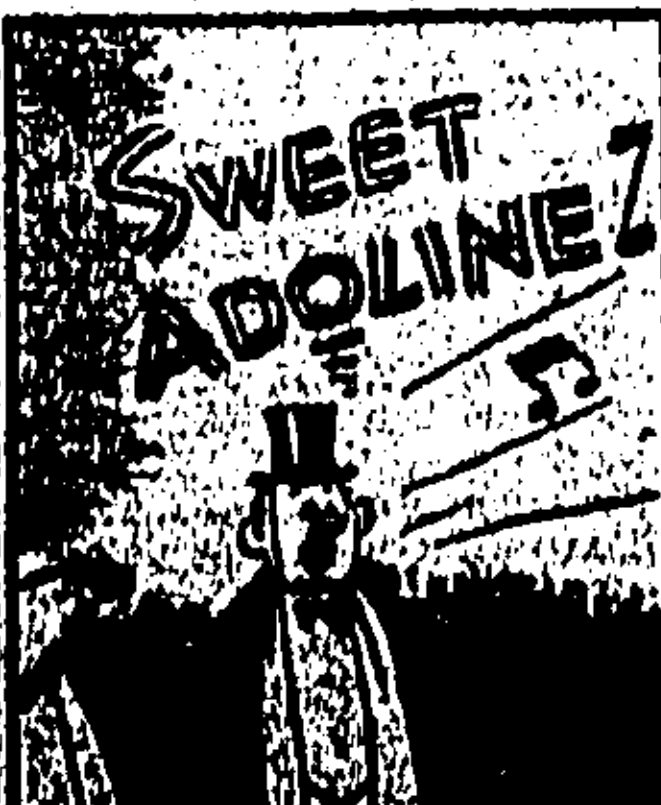
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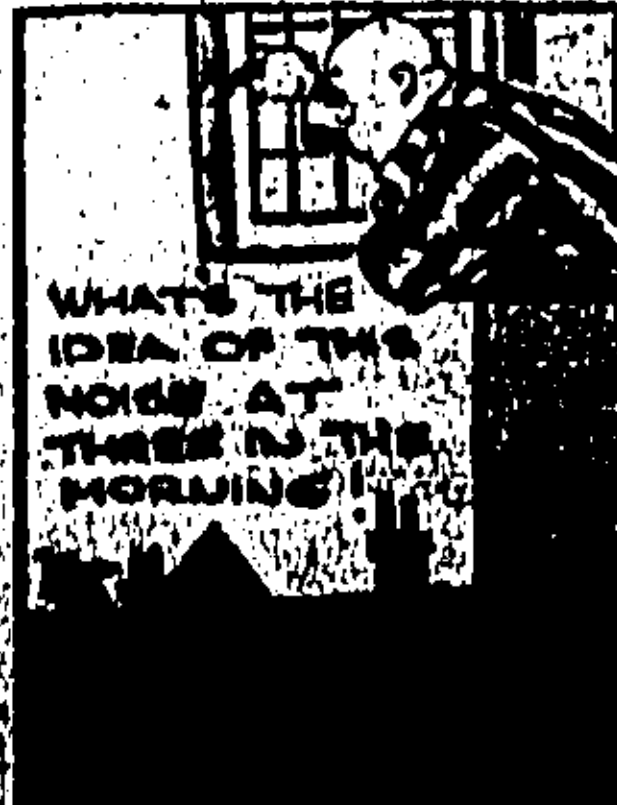
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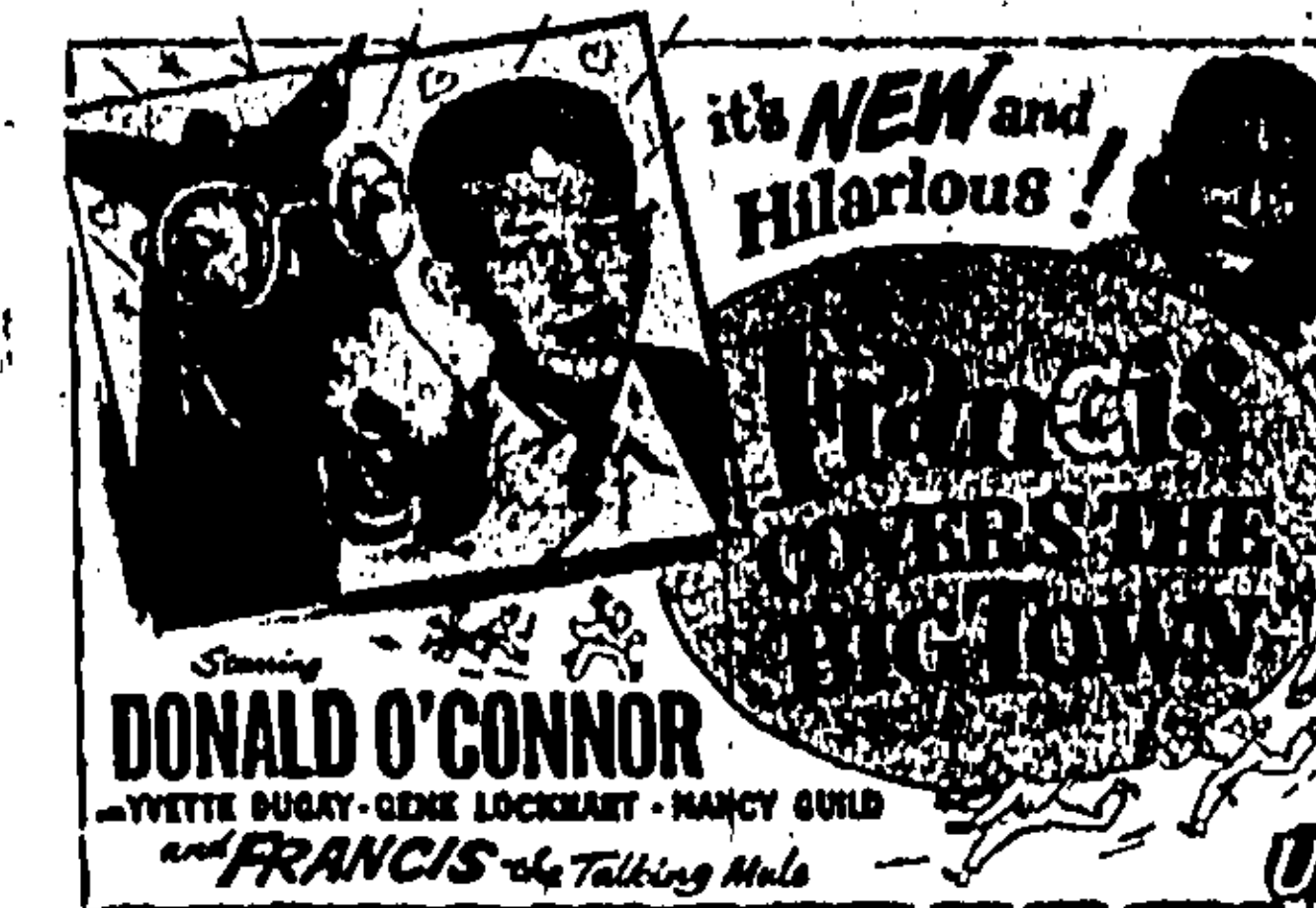
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TESTS IN THE BAHAMAS THIS YEAR

Luxury "Air Yacht" Tours Planned

London, Mar. 11. Australian veteran airman, Captain P.G. Taylor, today told an Australia House press conference his plans for taking Australian luxury "air yacht" cruises to "fabulous and beautiful" South Sea Islands.

With a four-engined Bermuda flying boat he has just bought in Britain, he intends taking 30 passengers at a time on 1,000 mile air jaunts from Sydney over six different routes.

Crocodile shoots and buffalo hunts will be thrown in with the coconut palms and coral atolls.

Prices will range from A £200 to A £400 per person.—China Mail Special.

Japan Plans A New Anti-Spy Law

Tokyo, Mar. 11. Japan's first post-war anti-espionage law, now being drafted by Government legal experts, will provide a maximum penalty of life imprisonment for spy activities on behalf of a foreign country, usually reliable sources said today.

The bill is to be presented to the Cabinet next week, and will then be put before the Diet.

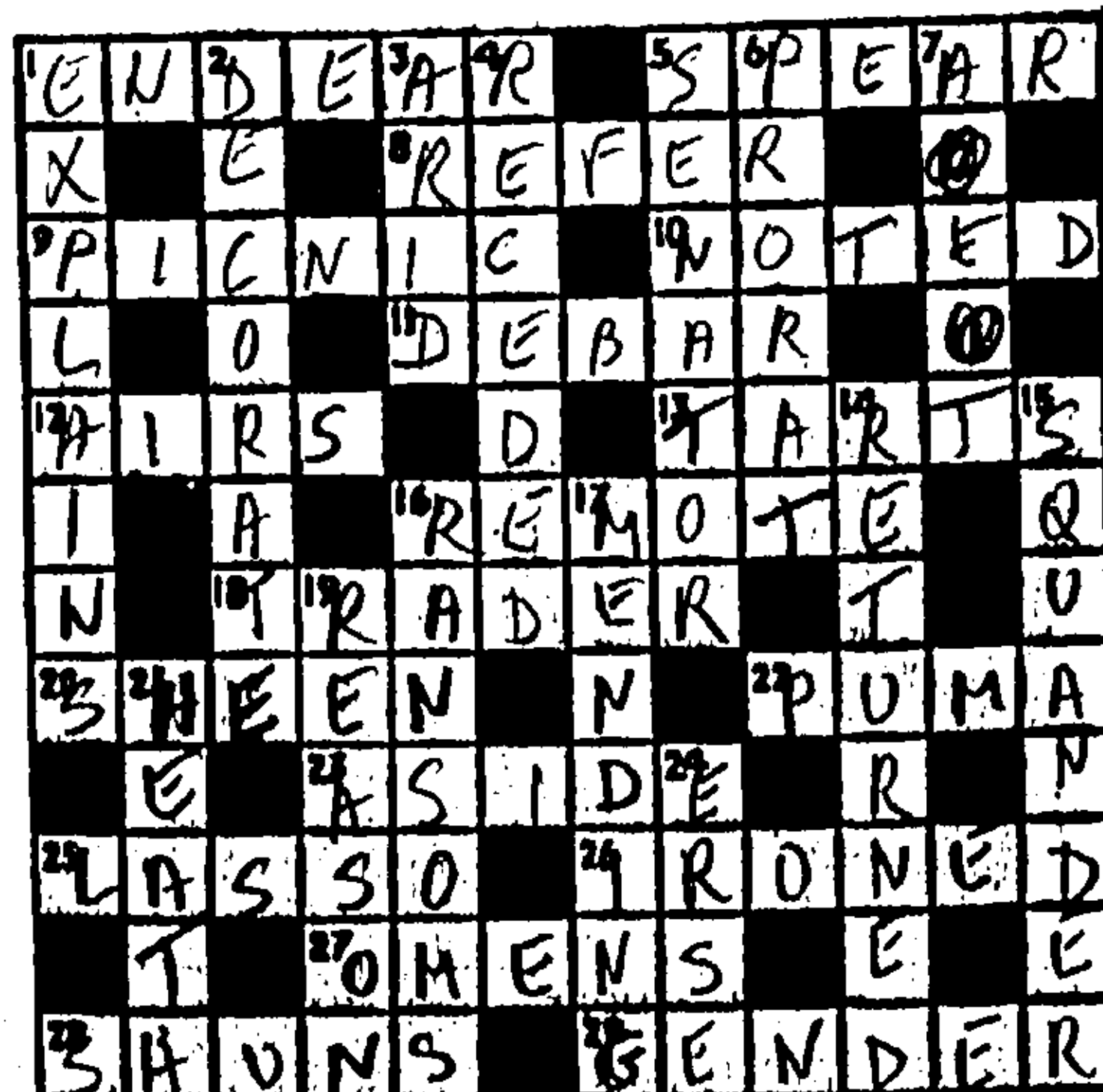
Because it had renounced war and war potential, Japan had no need for an anti-espionage law after World War II. Then it committed itself to a defence programme and agreed to accept U.S. arms aid under the Mutual Defence Treaty with the United States.

This week, it became necessary to draft a law to protect military secrets because the treaty with the United States specifically provided for such a measure.

The draft, now being prepared by the Government, would make illegal the passing of secret information on defence mobilisation and deployment programmes, defence negotiations and agreement with foreign countries, organisation, equipment and activities of Japanese defence forces, and such information on shipping, aircraft, ordnance and military installations as may be designated as "classified information" by the Director-General of the projected national defence agency.

Penalties for violations of the law will range from six months to life imprisonment, according to reliable Japanese sources.—United Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle





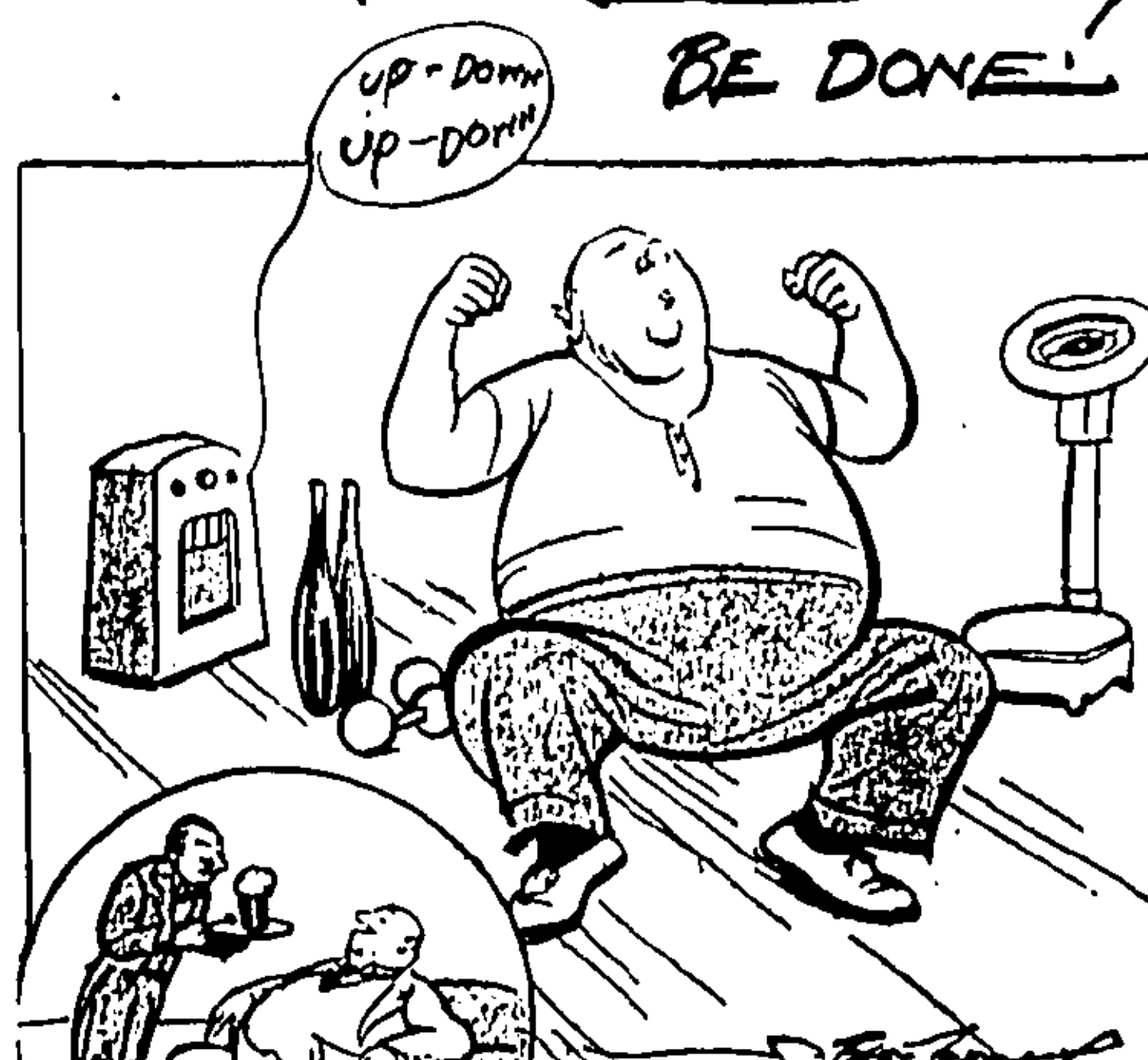
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London Express Service

THE SECRET RUSSIA THAT RESISTS

By Walter Kolarz

OFFICIAL Russia floods the world every day with a vast amount of propaganda material. This includes long newspaper articles, long radio lectures and an unlimited number of Tass news items, all of which give a rosy picture of "Soviet reality," and to this must be added much of the information and comment that comes out of Soviet Russia from non-Communist sources, including the reports of foreign correspondents. These, as a rule, describe what a shrewd French observer has called "L'Empire des facades." They deal with the Russia of governmental announcements and appointments, Party statements and conferences, the Russia of production statistics and Leninist quotations.

But there is another Russia which receives little publicity, although its existence should be taken into account by everybody who seeks to acquire a full picture of Soviet reality. This is the secret Russia of the forced labour camps. These are a tremendous indictment of the Soviet regime—but they are only one aspect of a large problem.

In a way the camps are a hope for Russia's future, for many of their inmates belong to the best sons and daughters of the country. They include people with an unbroken spirit who have been able to cast off the fear which haunts the nominally free Soviet citizens who populate the official Russia. They have defeated Communism in their hearts and look forward to the future with greater confidence than those who are now in power in the Kremlin.

Seven Years

THESE facts about the men and women of the secret Russia have been brought home with great clarity by one of the most recent arrivals from the Soviet Union, Frau Brigitte Gerland. On December 28, 1953, she returned to Germany after spending seven years in Soviet prisons and camps, including five years in the ill-famed Vorkuta, which is situated in the arctic circle. She was one of the many people whom the Soviet occupation authorities "abducted" from Eastern Germany under one pretext or another.

I have met Frau Gerland and had a conversation with her which lasted for four hours. I think that she has seen more than most other former inmates of Soviet labour camps who have succeeded in reaching

the free world. A journalist by training, and a member of a family that had passionately opposed German Nazism, she concentrated not on external things, but on the really essential.

Casting her eyes back to the years of camp life, she dismissed the conditions which other people have described before. The poverty of the camp diet, the harsh climate, and even the relationship between guards and inmates—all these had little interest for her. What held her attention was the political and spiritual life of the camps.

Her Message

THE important message to the world which Frau Gerland has brought out of Vorkuta is this—that political opposition to the Soviet regime, which has become invisible in the official Russia, is alive in the secret Russia of the camps. It is so strong that the guards stand no chance of suppressing it effectively. Political discussions on the future post-Bolshevik Russia, such as the MVD successfully prevent in Moscow and Leningrad, now take place openly in Vorkuta and pre-

sumably also in the other centres of the Soviet slave empire.

Frau Gerland mentioned two movements which dominated the thinking of the politically minded convicts. One was a Leninist, or rather a pseudo-opposition to the regime, and the other a Christian movement.

Young People

THE first consisted of young people, former students of Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev Universities, who had absorbed some of the elements of Marxist thinking but who placed in opposition to Stalinism what they described as the "real work of Lenin" (istiny trudy Lenina). They had an idealised picture of Lenin's life work and plans. They credited him with intentions more akin to anarchosyndicalism than to what is commonly understood as Leninism.

The other political trend in the camp was even more interesting, for it advocated a much more radical break with the official ideology. Its supporters described them-

selves simply as "believers" (Veruyushchie). They preached a sort of Christian Communism, were young, enterprising, and amazingly active throughout the camp. They organised religious services in the barracks, which were usually overcrowded, and read out Bible passages to their fellow camp inmates, many of whom were in contact with Holy Writ for the first time.

They also distributed handwritten copies of the four gospels. These were often confiscated by the MVD, but the "believers" then worked indefatigably to produce new ones. In fact some of them used every free minute for the copying of Bible passages.

Points Of View

THE "believers" were not attached to any Church but stood for a non-denominational Christianity. They seemed to be influenced by the traditions of that Russian Christian sectarianism which has for centuries coloured Russian religious thinking as much as, or even more than, official Orthodoxy. The "believers" in the camp had nothing good to say about the official church of the Moscow Patriarch, which they described as "the Church of the anti-Christ."

The "true Leninists" and the "believers" naturally held heated

discussions, but they also learned to appreciate each other's point of view. In their violent opposition to the Communist regime, they were united.

Frau Gerland said that the two groups joined hands in a big strike that broke out in Vorkuta last summer, affecting convicts working in 50 collieries of the slave labour trust, Vorkutugol. It occurred partly as a reaction to Beria's fall and partly as an answer to the execution of a Ukrainian prisoner charged with having murdered an MVD man. The revolt of the Vorkuta army of slave labourers created such a tense situation that the Deputy Chief Prosecutor of the USSR had to be sent to the trouble area. Even the execution of 120 strike leaders failed to stop the strike.

Decisive

THE world has learned about the strike in Vorkuta so far only through the report of Frau Gerland. Had she not been released by the Russians we should still have no knowledge of this momentous event, and it may well be that many similar occurrences have taken place in camps in other parts of the Soviet Union, without any eyewitness account of them reaching the free world.

But what really matters is not this or that single fact, but the general impression which emerges from Frau Gerland's story—that thousands of people are living in secret Russia who have not only retained the power of independent thought, but who have even developed it in their years of captivity. This is of decisive importance and deserves to be noted by all who believe that totalitarianism can never vanquish the human mind.

HERE'S A DYING RACKET

From John Monks

Tangier. In this international city, where the evils of East and West meet, one of the world's greatest smuggling rackets is dying.

Sheds stacked to the roof with American cigarettes and life-saving drugs are locked up and deserted, and Tangier's little fleet of smuggling ships are rusting as they lie at anchor under the bright Mediterranean sun.

Since the war, lawless adventurers of many nations have risked long terms of imprisonment without trial in Spanish jails. But a British law is beating them.

MUST HAVE TICKET

Technically, most of the smuggling ships are British, and for years they have been allowed to keep their British registration as long as there was a British "captain" aboard. Now these so-called captains must have a "master's ticket."

The wealthy, outwardly respectable kings of smuggling in Tangier, however, have not yet been able to find one genuine ship's officer willing to use his master's ticket for their work, although a "captain" can make £100 for each four-hour trip into Gibraltar.

It sounds like easy money. But many "masters" without tickets are serving long sentences in Spanish and Italian jails. And at the moment five smugglers' ships are impounded in various Mediterranean ports.

Gibraltar has been used in the past only as a screen for smuggling. Tangier was the headquarters and Spain the objective.

Every time a smuggling ship left Tangier after picking up American cigarettes from American freighters, Spanish agents contacted the authorities in Spain.

THEIR BASE

In consequence, the little ships, headed for Gibraltar. News of their future movements did not quickly reach Spain from the Rock. So until a few weeks ago, the smuggling fleets were openly putting in there—and declaring their cigarettes cargoes in bond.

Gibraltar gained considerable revenue from duties, and the smugglers had a base from which to sail to Spain later on without their movements being reported.

As Spanish and British territorial waters are both within each other's three-mile limit near Gibraltar, constant friction was of course caused by the Spaniards stopping British-registered smuggling boats within two miles of the Rock. That, now, is being straightened out.

The smuggling kings are naturally still trying to beat the British ban on bogus captains.

But right now the wild, exotic city of Tangier bears a thin veneer of respectability imposed by the stricter enforcement of British law.

Why Is The Music Hall On The Skids?

By LES ARMOUR

DOWN at Portsmouth last week a plainly desperate music hall manager put a gentleman breaking eggs at the top of his bill.

He was a very famous gentleman—TV chef Philip Harben—and he broke his eggs into a sumptuous rum omelette, the same way he breaks them every week to the delight of millions of British housewives.

But the public stayed away in droves. One night, less than 100 turned out in a theatre built to hold 1,300.

The manager was not surprised. It was a last-ditch manoeuvre and, anyway, he really didn't think it would work.

Wanted: Buyers

The plain fact of the matter is that music hall is on the skids. The London halls are up on the auction block at the moment; dozens more have already gone; hundreds would be sold if anyone could find a buyer.

Even London's Palladium—the life and soul of music hall—will be sold to the highest bidder. The music hall is in a desperate position.

They just can't find enough talent. Instead, they will produce a fast, breezy "revue" or a package show where the individual performers are subordinated to a connected theme.

The provincial theatres which still produce something like music hall, are concentrating on sex, sex and sex.

Some of the current titles: "Evening Nudes," "Happy Nude Year," and "They Never Clothed."

Nobody knows quite what has happened.

Some of the promoters blame American musical comedy, which, in recent years, has taken London by storm. A single transplanted Broadway show can draw record crowds night after night for years on end. ("Oklahoma" almost died everywhere else, is still doing fine on British provincial circuits.)

Some of them blame the lack of talent, noting sadly that the best of the crop is now in revue, musical comedy, or even in shows.

Probably the public has grown tired of the old routines. One reason—there's a new wave of music hall, and it's not the same as the old.

He recalls, almost with tears in his eyes, that he was in Olivollie—the London night haunt of variety artists—not long ago when Mary Lloyd Junior stood up and began to sing "I'm one of the Rubees that Cromwell Knocked About a Bit."

No Response

The place was packed and the whole crowd swung into a chorus that nearly brought the roof down.

Once upon a time Stan says that would have happened in any theatre. Today the audience would just sit there like bums on a log.

In short, Stan thinks it's the audience that has changed. Radio, television, films and records have got the public so used to canned entertainment which they have lost the ability to respond.

And music hall was successful simply because the "variety" element in it was the "variety" element in the public's mind. It was the only place where you could see a variety of things in one place.

Something more
than just "Good!"



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JACOBY ON BRIDGE

Player Drubbed In This Playing

By OSWALD JACOBY

BRIDGE players have a favourite saying about the sort of thing that happened to North and South in the hand shown today. Some days it doesn't pay to get out of bed.

I can't find any fault, theoretically, with South's overcall of two hearts. He expected to win five heart tricks even if the worst happened, and the club figured in his hand. A probable losing trick is more than enough to earn an overcall of two, so South was certainly justified.

West's double was quite sound, and North cannot be blamed for going to three diamonds. What player trusts his partner so much that he will pass so strong a six-card diamond suit, passing two hearts doubled with not a single heart in support?

South should have passed three diamonds, especially since it wasn't doubled. When you're caught in a tight hand, it's best to pass any one and let the partner make the contract. This is a rough rule when your partner's bid

NORTH		8
♠ J 4 3 2		
♥ A K Q 9 8 7		
♦ 9 5 2		
♣ 5		
WEST		
♠ A Q 7 3		
♥ J 5 5 2		
♦ A Q 3		
♣ 7 8		
EAST		
♠ K J 10 9 4 2		
♥ None		
♦ K J 10 7		
♣ None		
Neither side vul.		
East South	North	
1 ♠ 2 ♠	Double 3 ♠	
Pass 3 ♠	Double Pass	
Pass Pass		
Opening lead—♠ 5		

is doubled. You never know when an opponent will suddenly (and foolishly) decide to pass or bid instead of doubling.

Mind you, North would have been doubled at three diamonds. Good defence would hold North to five tricks, so a contract of three diamonds doubled would not be a bargain.

At three hearts, however, South managed to win only four tricks. What's more, there wasn't a thing he could do about it. Fate, and two very skilled opponents, conspired against him.

West opened the singleton spade, and East won the first trick with the eight. He continued with the ace of spades, and West discarded the deuce of diamonds. After some thought, East shifted to the eight of clubs.

West took the queen and ace of clubs, and then led a third club for East to ruff. East led a high spade, South ruffed with the jack of hearts, and West overruffed with the queen. West led his last club, and East ruffed again.

By this time South's hand was stripped down to six trumps, with no outside cards. East led another high spade, and South ruffed with the ten of hearts. West wisely refused to overruff, after which his A-7-3 of trumps were sure to produce two trump tricks. So South was down five, for a penalty of 900 points, on a perfectly reasonable overall. How unlucky can a man be?

CARD Sense

Q—The bidding has been:

North East South West
1 Heart Pass 1 Spade Pass
2 NT Pass

You, South, hold: Spades K-7-6-4, Hearts 3, Diamonds 6-7-6-4, Clubs 9-5-2. What do you do?

A—Pass. You took your life in your hands when you made your first response, with only 4 points. This was a doubtful bid at best, and you must get out of the auction while the getting is still good.

TODAY'S QUESTION

The bidding is the same as in the question just answered. You, South, hold: Spades K-7-6-4, Hearts 3-2, Diamonds 6-7-6-4, Clubs K-2. What do you do?

Answer Tomorrow

WHAT'S HIS LIKE?

STAN B. COLE
Readers: The letters to Stan B. Cole are published in this column.

(Solution on Page 10)



"What is it! It's a perfect hole! That's what it is!"

BY THE WAY

by Beachcomber

EVER since Mr. Robert Taylor avoided howling crowds at Waterloo Station by hiding in a milk float, the people of England have looked for a shy and retiring film star.

Mr. K. C. Hooper seems to be the answer to the process, and he is already making a name for himself. He is a shy and retiring man, and he is a very good actor. He is a very good actor, and he is a very shy man.

And so on

A PROPOS of Antipathy. A man who has a very little stomach and a very little heart, and who is a very little man, is a very little man. He is a very little man, and he is a very little man.

"Let's go," vouchsafed the dog

YOUR BIRTHDAY By STELLA

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

BORN today, you are a general combination of charm, real talent, imagination and cleverness. You are a very good person, and you are a very good person. You are a very good person, and you are a very good person.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) — If there are dates that need being done at home, get an early start. If you are bored with life, it is time to get a new hobby. If you are bored with life, it is time to get a new hobby.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 20) — If you are bored with life, it is time to get a new hobby. If you are bored with life, it is time to get a new hobby.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 20) — Make the most of your two days of rest. Manage to get some pleasant recreation into your schedule.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Your house may need a little redecoration. Get it done before the summer.

CANCER (June 21-July 20) — Although the future is revealed, it is well to make plans for all eventualities and be ready for what comes.

LEO (July 21-Aug. 20) — Get out into the country. You can. A little spring will do you the world of good.

VIRGO (Aug. 21-Sept. 20) — The new year's resolutions are done before you indulge in a pleasure bout. Get an early start.

LIBRA (Sept. 21-Oct. 20) — If you are bored with life, it is time to get a new hobby. If you are bored with life, it is time to get a new hobby.

SCORPIO (Oct. 21-Nov. 20) — An early start on the house will be a very good idea. An early start on the house will be a very good idea.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 21-Dec. 20) — Be a good person. Be a good person. Be a good person. Be a good person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Make a definite effort to cut down on your drinking and enjoy some relaxing recreation and fun.

PLEASURE BOAT. Get an early start. If you are bored with life, it is time to get a new hobby. If you are bored with life, it is time to get a new hobby.

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WOMANSENSE

A TWEED SUIT



A suit in deep beige and white herringbone tweed. The jacket has drooped shoulders. It is buttoned with two fastenings and is worn with a brown calf belt. The skirt is slim with one back pleat for easy movement.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

To remove mildew from woodwork, wipe the surface with a cloth dipped in water to which a little kerosene has been added.

When frosting cake, wait until the cake is cool and then spread the icing. Pile high and then smooth out with a knife dipped in hot water.

Wipe off fresh fruit with a clean, damp cloth before storing. This cleaning helps check rot which may have been transferred from other fruits at the market.

Large ash trays are not only more convenient to use, they are

GOSSIP ABOUT HEALTH IS A DANGEROUS HABIT

By W. W. BAUER, M.D.

NOT so long ago I came jauntily into the building where my office is—whistling in fact. If one may call it that, I met a co-worker, and hailed him cheerfully. We fell into conversation, and after a bit of brilliant repartee about the weather, he said, "Say, you sure look tired. My morale dropped—through the bottom. Suddenly, I was tired."

Dr. Paul H. Fluck in, "Today's Health," tells the story of three women chatting outside a store. One of them, a tall thin lady, said one of the remaining ladies, "Poor Mrs. Smith." Replied her companion, "She's no this."

And they went on from there until they had established to their own satisfaction that Mrs. Smith must have a cancer, that she was under the care of a certain physician reputed to be a cancer specialist. Oh, and lest we forget, Mrs. Smith's mother died of cancer. Task, Task.

death certificates for people who die of somebody else's loose tongue.

A good way to kill somebody with gossip is to tell a patient who has a chronic disease, difficult to treat, that his doctor is not doing him any good and never will. "Why not be smart? Forget about your doctor, and send for some stuff that I've been using. Sure, I've had the same symptoms you're having, and I took three boxes of the tablets, and now I feel fine. I'll give you the address. Or wait, I've got some of the tablets left over. You can try them."

Hope is one of the most important of human attributes, but it can lead a person far wrong, when unwisely relied upon. "Operations" are great conversation pieces, not only afterward, but beforehand. Before the operation that never took place because the gossips whispered in the ear of the patient that the doctors always wanted to use "the knife," and look what it did to poor Sarah since. Buzz, Buzz, Buzz. So the operation is declined, the appendix bursts or the cancer goes on to inoperability.

Some gossips are tempters. To the diabolic they offer a lapse from his diet with the really remark that doctors don't really expect you to follow their instructions to the letter and so they make the diet tougher than it needs to be. Or, "One little kick over the traces, and you'll know the difference." To the patient with heart disease, "So you aren't supposed to climb stairs—how can one trip hurt you?" To the person struggling with overweight, "Aw, come on, eat, drink and be merry tomorrow we diet. Hah, hah, hah." Very funny!

CONSTRUCTIVE TALK

An astute health educator once said that he would rather have people talking about health over their back fences than to have millions to spend for health education. He was right, if the talk could be of the constructive kind. About known and established preventive and curative medicine, available to-day as never before in history. The right information is all around you. What did you talk about today—life, or death?

Recipes For Fresh Citrus Fruits

MAKE good use of the citrus fruits which abound just when we have the most need of their vital elements.

Use them generously as an ingredient when preparing many foods. And, of course, you will serve them as is or juiced.

To enhance the delicate flavour of shell fish, prepare lemon sauce.

For 6 servings, blend well 1 tsp. prepared horseradish, 3 tsp. tomato catsup, tsp. salt, 6 tsp. lemon juice and ¼ tsp. tabasco sauce.

For a novel idea serve oysters on the half shell, with the sauce in baskets made from half-

lemon rinds. Good with clams too.

If it's roast lamb then try something different from the usual mint sauce or jelly. Combine and stand in a warm place for ½ hr. mixture made with ¼ c. finely chopped mint, ¼ c. orange juice, ¼ c. lemon juice and 1 tsp. powdered sugar. Makes enough for 6 servings.

Ham with orange makes an unusual flavour combination.

EPICUREAN DISH

To serve 6, fry 1½ pounds ham. Add 2 tsp. flour to 2 tsp. fat from frying ham and cook until lightly browned. Add 2 c. orange juice, stirring well to avoid lumps. Cook 5 minutes or until sauce is thick. Pour sauce over ham. Garnish with parsley and orange slices.

Especially good for invalids and convalescents is a drink made by beating together one egg yolk, juice of 2 oranges, honey or sugar to taste, and a scant pinch of salt.

For a good salad suggestion cut into sections as many grapefruit as required. There should be 6 sections to a portion. Arrange over cups lettuce leaves, alternating with slices of green pepper. Place on individual plates, sprinkle with a little paprika and serve with French dressing on the side.

STAR-SHAPED

For another grapefruit dish, a nice luncheon special, arrange 6 large grapefruit sections, free of membrane and seeds, in the shape of a star on crisp chicory leaves. Line each grapefruit section with a section of orange, also free from seeds and membranes. Fill centre with raspberry jam. Garnish with chilled plates with "side order" of dressing. To prepare dressing, to 1 c. mayonnaise add generous tsp. currant jelly, well beaten, with top of grated lemon peel, mixing thoroughly.

When ice cream and fresh orange juice get together, why their double good value. Good for youngsters and adults alike, then, is adding a dip of vanilla ice cream to a glass of well diluted orange juice. Stir until partially dissolved, then serve at once.

— Alice Denhoff

BOYS' AND GIRLS' MAGAZINE

Knarf Is Deciding What to Be

—Policeman, Mailman, Tailor or a Father?—

By MAX TRELL

"Is that all?" asked Knarf.

"There are one or two other things, but they're not the importantest," said the mailman.

"Thank you," said Knarf. "I'm going to get a bag and fill it with letters and carry it and become a mailman."

"Mr Policeman," said Knarf, "I'd like to ask you a question."

"Fine," said the policeman. "I don't mind answering questions. What do you want to ask me?"

"A Good Question"

"This is what I want to ask you," said Knarf. "I want to ask you: What is the most important thing about being a policeman?"

The policeman pushed back his hat and smiled and said: "Knarf, my boy, the most important thing about being a policeman is to know how to blow a whistle. For when I blow a whistle, motor cars stop. Then children and old ladies and everybody else can cross from one side of the street to the other."

"Just blowing a whistle. Is that all you have to do to be a policeman?" said Knarf.

"There are a few other things. But the importantest thing is to know how to blow a whistle."

"Thank you," said Knarf. "I'm going to get a whistle and become a policeman."

Then Knarf met a fireman.

"Mr Fireman," said Knarf, "would you answer my question?"

"I certainly would," said the fireman. "Just ask it."

"What," said Knarf, "is the most important thing about being a fireman?"

"That's easy," said the fireman. "The most important thing about being a fireman is to be able to spray a hose."

"Is that all?" asked Knarf.

"There might be a few things more, but they're not the importantest."

"Thank you, Mr Fireman," said Knarf. "I'm going to spray a hose and become a fireman."

Then Knarf met a mother.

"What is the most important thing about being a mother?"

Mother wasn't a bit surprised at the question. "The very importantest thing about being a mother," she said, "is to love your children."

So that's what Knarf decided to be when he grew up—a father!



"Blowing a whistle is importantest," the policeman said.

"Oh," said Knarf, "I thought I'd like to be a policeman and blow a whistle, or a mailman and carry a bag, or a fireman and spray with a hose, or a mother and love my children."

Mother laughed. "You can't be a mother, Knarf. But you can be a father. And the most important thing about being a father is to love his children."

So that's what Knarf decided to be when he grew up—a father!

Rupert and the Compass—33



After a long journey Rupert ships in a little boat. He says, "We've discovered something wonderful that nobody has discovered before. It's a compass that can find its way to any place in the world. It's a compass that can find its way to any place in the world."

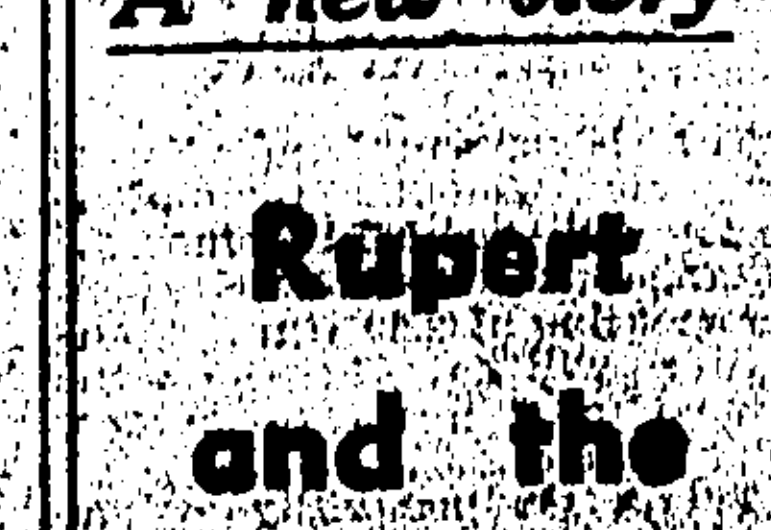
Rupert and the compass are on their way to find the most important thing about being a mailman.

The mailman thought for a moment or two. Then he answered, "The most important thing about being a mailman is to know how to blow a whistle."

Rupert and the compass are on their way to find the most important thing about being a mailman.

A new story

Rupert and the Space Ship



Rupert and the space ship are on their way to find the most important thing about being a mailman.

The mailman thought for a moment or two. Then he answered, "The most important thing about being a mailman is to know how to blow a whistle."

Rupert and the space ship are on their way to find the most important thing about being a mailman.

Rupert and the space ship are on their way to find the most important thing about being a mailman.

ODD FACTS

A. Coelth, Miss. woman is grand-daughter of one doctor, daughter of another, wife of a third, mother of a fourth, and mother-in-law of two others.

Reported by an animal hospital in Boston: A parrot, named "God Bless You," was found in a department store, having been in the bedroom floor at night.

A wife in Chicago was granted a divorce on the complaint that her husband, a department store floorwalker, insisted on padding the bedroom floor at night.

Old Mrs. Knarf, a three-year-old girl, named "God Bless You," was found in a department store, having been in the bedroom floor at night.

Rupert and the space ship are on their way to find the most important thing about being a mailman.

[illegible]

BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE.

CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS TO		
"RECHUEN"	Singapore & Penang	8 p.m. 14th Mar.
"FOOCHOW"	Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka & Kobe	8 a.m. 15th Mar.
ARRIVALS FROM		
"FOOCHOW"	Indonesia & Manado	7 a.m. 13th Mar.
"SHENGKING"	Keelung	7 a.m. 18th Mar.
"YUNNAN"	Shanghai	10th Mar.

A.O. LINE LTD./C.N. CO., LTD., JOINT SERVICE

SAILINGS TO		
"CHANGSHA"	Rabaul, Sydney & Melbourne	6th Apr.
ARRIVALS FROM		
"CHANGSHA"	Kobe	28th Mar.

BLUE FUNNEL LINE

Scheduled Sailings to Europe via Aden & Port Said		
	Leaves	Arrives
"AUTOMEDON"	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Mar.
"ATREUS"	Liverpool & Dublin	14th Mar.
"BELLEROPHON"	Genoa, London, Rotterdam, Amsterdam & Hamburg	24th Mar.
"PATROCLUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	5th Apr.
"ALCINOUS"	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Apr.
Scheduled Sailings from Europe		
	Leaves	Arrives
S. "BELLEROPHON"	Liverpool	14th Mar.
G. "PATROCLUS"	do	18th Mar.
S. "ALCINOUS"	do	28th Mar.
G. "PATROCLUS"	do	1st Apr.
S. "CYCLOPS"	do	7th Apr.
G. "PERSEUS"	do	13th Mar.
S. "AUTOMEDON"	18th Mar.	22nd Apr.
G. "ANCHISES"	24th Mar.	2nd May

Carriers' option to proceed via other ports to load and discharge cargo.

DE LA RAMA LINES

ARRIVING FROM U.S. ATLANTIC & PACIFIC COAST PORTS.

	Sails N.Y.	Sails S.F.	Arr. H.K.
"TELEMACHUS"	Sailed	Sailed	14th Mar.
"DONA NATI"	do	do	2nd Apr.
"MANGALORE"	do	19th Mar.	17th Apr.
"AJAX"	do	2nd Apr.	2nd May
"HAINAN"	28th Mar.	16th Apr.	16th May

SAILINGS for NEW YORK, via SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES, CRISTOBAL and JAPAN

	Leaves	Arrives
"BATAAN"	19th Mar.	28th Mar.
"MUNCASTER CASTLE"	4th Apr.	5th Apr.
"TELEMACHUS"	18th Apr.	20th Apr.

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HK/Singapore (DC-4)	9.00 a.m. Monday
HK/Bangkok/Singapore (DC-4)	9.00 a.m. Tuesday
HK/Manila/B.N. Borneo (DC-3)	6.30 a.m. Tue. & Fri.
HK/Manila/Philippines (DC-3)	10.00 a.m. Wednesday
HK/Bangkok/Singapore (DC-4)	7.00 a.m. Thursday
HK/Calcutta/Bangkok/Calcutta (DC-4)	12.00 noon Friday

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NOTICE

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Sixty-Fifth Ordinary Yearly Meeting of Shareholders will be held at the offices of the Company, 9 Ice House Street, 4th Floor, Hongkong, on Thursday, 8th April, 1954, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Statement of Accounts and the Report of the Directors for the year ended 31st December, 1953, and to transact the ordinary business of the Company.

THE TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be closed from Thursday, 25th March, 1954, until Thursday, 8th April, 1954, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
 SHEWAN, TOMES & CO., LTD.
 R. V. LEDERHOFER, Director.
 General Managers.
 Hongkong, 12th Mar., 1954.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

In "BELLEROPHON" Damaged cargo ex this vessel will be surveyed by Messrs. Gaddard & Douglas at Holt's Wharf from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th March. Consignees are requested to have their representatives present during the survey.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.
 Hongkong, March 12, 1954.

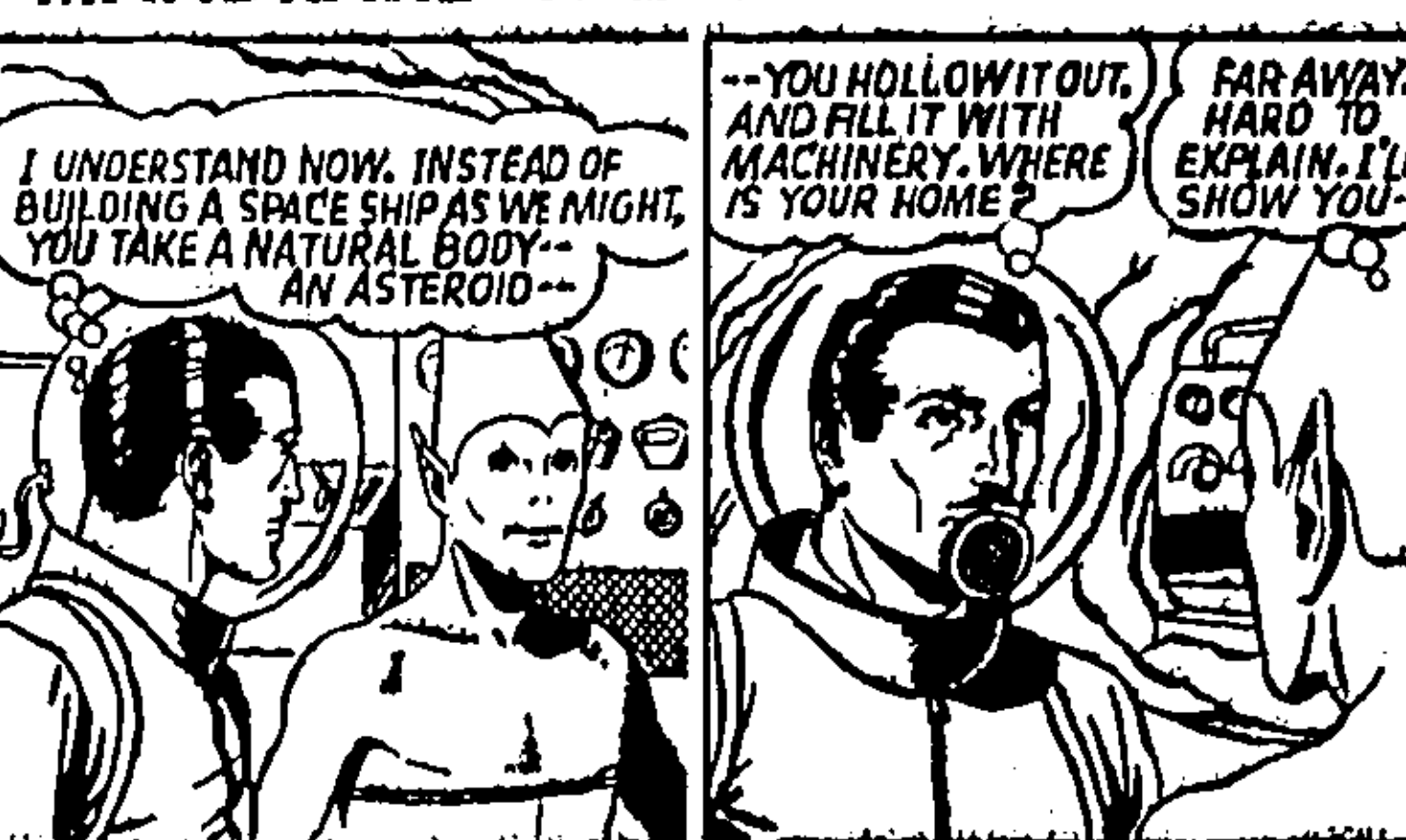
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 "VIET-NAM" sailing April 22nd

HONGKONG to CASABLANCA in 30 days.
 "ANADYR" sailing March 17th
 "IRAOUADY" sailing April 22nd

MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN



By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



FERNAND



By Mik

NANCY



By Ernie Bushmiller

JOHNNY HAZARD



By Frank Robbins

Czechs Seek UN Help To Develop Her Coal

Geneva, Mar. 11. Czechoslovakia today asked for the help of a United Nations Committee in mechanizing and developing her coal-mining industry.

Mr. Jaroslav Pacolka told the Coal Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe her coal output had increased 50 per cent over pre-war, but her demand had grown even more, both for industry and the home.

"What we would like to have from the Coal Committee is help in the mechanization and the rational use of our coal deposits," he said. "We believe the Coal Committee should give more attention to the problem of more rational use of European coal resources and higher productivity."

He said he was glad the Committee had given importance to increasing supplies of coaling coal.

BRIEF SPEECH

The brief speech made a good impression on the other delegates as a constructive contribution, but was not taken generally as a significant appeal for Western help.

As a member of the Coal Committee of ECE, Czechoslovakia can profit from the exchanges of technical "know how" as can all other countries. There was no mention of possible trade with the West in mining equipment and the speech might be taken at the most as a hint of advances to be made in the East-West trade consultations to open in Geneva on April 20.

The Czech newspaper, Svobodne Slovo, has printed a Government appeal to retired coal miners to go back to the pits for a time to help the country reach its output target, a Vienna message said today. They were promised that the pensions would be safeguarded. (Another paper, Lidova Demokracie, reported that 2,000 factory and office workers in Prague had been drafted to a place in Ostrava to be trained as miners.—Reuters.)

P&O B.I. & A. COMPANIES

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Outwards	Leaves London	One Hongkong
"CARTHAGE"	1st March	1st April
"CORFU"	15th March	15th April
"CHUSAN"	1st April	1st May
via Southampton, Port Said, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Penang & Singapore		
Homewards	Leaves Hongkong	Due London
"CARTHAGE"	12th March	12th April
"CORFU"	26th April	10th May
"CHUSAN"	2nd May	31st May

accepting cargo for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said & London

FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Arriving	From
"BOMALI"	21st March	U.K. via Straits
Homewards	Loading	For
"SINGAPORE"	7th April	Singapore, Port Swettenham, Penang, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Genoa, Marseilles, Hamburg, Antwerp, Rotterdam & Amsterdam

With liberty to call at Belawan before or after Straits Ports and at Bombay if convenient.

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"ANSHUN"	due 15th Mar.	from Calcutta
"SIRDHANA"	due 22nd Mar.	for Japan
		for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta

P. & O. B. I. JOINT SERVICE

"OZARDA"	due 15th Mar.	for Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Kuwait, Khormashir & Basrah direct. Other Persian Gulf Ports via Bombay
"ORDIA"	due 15th Mar.	for Japan
"ORMARA"	due 31st Mar.	for Singapore, Madras, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Kuwait, Khormashir & Basrah direct. Other Persian Gulf Ports via Bombay
"ORNA"	due 2nd Apr.	from Persian Gulf for Japan

EASTERN & AUSTRALIAN S.S. CO., LTD.

"EASTERN"	due 22nd Mar.	from Japan
		for London, Marseilles, Sydney, Melbourne & Adelaide
"NELLORE"	due 27th Mar.	from Australia
		for Japan
"NELLORE"	due 15th Apr.	from Japan
		for Auckland, Wellington & Sydney

All vessels have liberty to call at any ports on or off the route & the route & sailing are subject to change or amendment with or without notice.

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 Sails Mar. 13 for Kobe & Yokohama.

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Fast regular freight—refrigerator—passenger service to Korea, Japan, Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, Malaya, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi and Persian Gulf Ports.

"THAI"

Arrives Mar. 25 from Sandakan.
 Sails Mar. 26 for Kobe & Yokohama.

"STAR ARCTURUS"

Arrives Apr. 3 from Japan.
 Sails Apr. 4 for Singapore, Penang, Madras, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Khormashir, Basrah & Bahrain.

(Accepting cargo for transshipment Kobe/Pusan and Kobe/Okinawa)

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Iraq Expected To Stay Outside Alliance

London, Mar. 11. London diplomatic circles today considered that the controversy in the Israeli Press about the possibility of Iraq joining the Turkish-Pakistan Pact was unwarranted.

They said that there was no justification for Israeli fears in this respect, although the present trip of King Faisal II to Baghdad had probably caused a revival of alarm about Iraq's intentions.

The same sources said they had received no information indicating that Iraq was actually contemplating an alliance with the Pakistan-Turkey Pact, and recalled that the Prime Minister of Iraq, Nuri al-Said, had previously stated that his country had not been invited to take part in the negotiations now going on between Ankara and Karachi.

In addition, Iraq public opinion was understood to be not wholly in favour of such an agreement.

The forthcoming trip of Iraqi statesman Nuri al-Said to Ankara, New Delhi and other Middle Eastern capitals was believed to be only for the purpose of explaining the country's policy and opposing claims of Iraq joining the Pakistan-Turkey Pact.—France-Press.

RUSSIA'S WOOL BUYING IN NZ

Auckland, New Zealand

Authoritative sources today told that the Soviet Government had paid at least \$2,000,000 for 15,000 bales of New Zealand wool through the New Zealand Wool Board, which is expected to be sold in the Soviet Union by the end of the year.

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CHINA MAIL

Sheaffer's
"SNORKEL"

Page 10 FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1954.

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

Tooley Street SE

THEY came into the Tower Bridge court-room by separate doors, the wife by the one that led from the cells, her tall young husband through the one that led to the public gallery.

You might sometimes think, to see the convict, hungry-looking, prisoners cast from the dock to the door the husband used, that it led to some painful world of surpassing wonder and beauty.

It actually leads to the bustle of grey Tooley Street, S.E.1, but it leads, as well to the world of free men, and Tooley Street seems paradise near enough, when you have endured you and her from that world.

With a look towards that door, though she seemed at pains not to catch her husband's eye, the wife took her place in the dock.

PAPER-BACK ROMANCE

SHE, like him, was tall, with very fair hair wrapped up in a woolen scarf. She was in her early thirties, and had been held in prison a week, on remand.

This, the wife's second appearance in the dock, was the last chapter of what she had read, only a short time ago, as a tremendous romantic adventure that had seemed quite on a par with all those read about in paper-backed novels.

For the wife, whose name was Ida, looked by the fact that her husband spent what she thought was too much time with his family, had left him and an off with another man.

But before her great romance had lasted any length of time, she and the man had both been arrested for theft.

HER FIRST SLIPS

THE man was found not guilty. Ida, though she argued she had meant only to borrow, not to steal, the things were proved guilty.

Now, a police officer went into the witness-box, and said to Miss Sybil Campbell, the magistrate: "I told you last week, madam, that there were no previous convictions against this woman. I find now that there are two."

"In 1951 she was fined for fraudulently consuming electricity, and in 1952, put on probation for 12 months for fraudulently converting the sum of 3s. to her own use."

"Thank you, I see," said the magistrate, and called for the woman probation officer, who had talked to Ida and discovered much about her history.

HUSBAND FORGIVES

"SHE tells me, madam," the probation officer said, "that she has had a long talk with the prison chaplain, while in custody."

Looking a little embarrassed, the husband came forward into the box, and whispered his willingness to forget the past and forgive his wife, who with downcast eyes, was studying the floor of the dock.

"Well, from what the probation officer has told me," said Miss Campbell, "it does seem that a lot of the trouble has been that you've been leaving your wife too much alone."

FIRST CLAIM

"QUITE plainly she needs more help and support from you, and remember she has first claim upon your company. Will you try to give her more of your help?"

"Yes," said the husband, "I will."

Ida was placed on probation, and when the formalities had been dealt with, she and her husband left the court arm-in-arm through the same doorway this time.

And at the top of the stone steps leading into Tooley Street, the couple paused and looked at each other and smiled.

Anyone seeing them there might have thought they had just been married, and have thought how well-matched they looked, and how certain of their future with each other.

CANAL ZONE DEBATE

(Continued from Page 1)

the people of the Middle East: "Hurry up, show your courage and do what you know to be right."

Opposition MPs cheered Mr. Crossman's speech.

Replying, the Secretary of War, Mr. Anthony Head, said: "There is nobody on either side of the House who can see any advantage whatever to their defeat in our sitting it out indefinitely in Egypt. There are differences of opinion as to how the matter should be negotiated, but to remain indefinitely in a hostile Egypt without any end in sight would be a matter which would bring no great gain."

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McCarthy Replies To Critics

Radio Interview

Washington, Mar. 12. Senator Joseph McCarthy, in a radio and television broadcast last night, said Mr. Adlai Stevenson, the Democratic Party leader, had made a false statement about "Communism in government."

He was answering a broadcast made last Saturday by Mr. Stevenson, who denounced "McCarthyism" as leading the United States into a "malign and fatal totalitarianism."

Senator McCarthy, in his broadcast last night, declared that another critic of his, the radio commentator Edward R. Murrow, was once described as an "adviser to a Communist propaganda school."

In reply to yet another recent critic, his fellow Republican Senator R. E. Flanders of Vermont, Senator McCarthy said he would prefer the words of Abraham Lincoln to those of Senator Flanders as to where lay the peril in the nation.

Senator McCarthy quoted Lincoln as saying that if the nation was destroyed, it would be destroyed from within while Senator Flanders recently declared that the real Communist peril came from abroad rather than from inside this country.

Senator McCarthy delivered his replies in a question and answer radio session with Mr. Fulton Lewis over the Mutual Broadcasting System network.

"STRICTLY UNTRUE"

The interview began by asking about Mr. Stevenson's speech at Miami Beach, Florida, on March 6 attacking both Senator McCarthy and Eisenhower Administration. At one point Mr. Stevenson said that among all the security risks the Administration claimed to have removed from the Government "only one alleged active Communist has been found."

"That, of course, is strictly untrue and Adlai knew that or should know it," Senator McCarthy said.

In support of his point he went on to name three persons who, he said, had been let out of the Government service.

Concerning Mr. Murrow, a Columbia Broadcasting System commentator, who recently said Senator McCarthy repeatedly had been stepping over the line between investigating and persecuting, Senator McCarthy classed him with what he termed the "extreme left wing bleeding heart elements of television and radio."

Senator McCarthy said he had a 1935 clipping from the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph listing Edward Murrow as an American adviser to a Communist propaganda school.

The Senator said Mr. Murrow was described as on the National Advisory Council of Moscow University, an institution advocating violent overthrow of the Government.

"This," the Senator said, "may explain why Edward Murrow feels he must weep after week smear McCarthy."

Senator McCarthy said Mr. Murrow might be worried over a connection with the Moscow University and about exposure of some of his friends.

QUOTES LINCOLN

Replying to Senator Flanders' criticism that McCarthy was diverting attention from Communism abroad by his methods at home, Senator McCarthy quoted as having remarked that all the armies of Europe and Asia could not make one track on the Blue Ridge mountains (in Virginia) and that any destruction of this nation would come from within.

He said he thought he would "go along" with Lincoln on that.

Senator McCarthy said he has had differences with his own party and would continue to, but sincerely hoped it would never adopt the "Truman-Stevenson theory" that it must place party above country.

He said Mr. Stevenson was "completely false" in accusing him of making war on the army. The Senator said he had repeatedly taken the position the army was 99 per cent loyal.

Reuter.

FALSE ALARM

Seoul, Mar. 12. United Nations jet fighters near Seoul "scrambled" early today when radar tracked four Communist jets heading south just north of the demilitarised zone.

The Fifth Air Force sounded a yellow (standby) alert in Seoul, but the Communist jets turned north over the sea off the west coast of North Korea.

Reuter.

They Enjoyed The Show



This animated study in expressions was caught by our staff photographer's camera yesterday at the Home for the Aged when youthful acrobats and lion dancers entertained the inmates. Here a group of old men are seen enjoying to the full the clever performances which were given.

Mother On Trial For Murder

London, Mar. 11.

A German analyst told a court here today he found metal polish ingredients in the stomach of a baby boy whose mother is being tried for murder.

The boy's 18-year-old mother, Mrs. Yvonne Margaret Morse, is accused of administering metal polish to her 21-month-old son at Luncbury, Wiltshire, while Mrs. Morse was living there last year with her husband, who was serving with the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

The prosecuting counsel conceded yesterday that there was no evidence of direct malice on the part of Mrs. Morse towards the child.

Dr. J. B. Bales, Deputy Director of the Public Health Analysts Office for North Rhine, Westphalia, at Munster, said he compared samples of metal polish with the contents of the child's stomach.

He said both contained poisonous petrol hydrocarbons and aluminium oxide.

He also examined the test of one of the baby's bottles and found traces of aluminium oxide.

"Normally, milk contains so little aluminium oxide that you would not find it by the test I carried out," he added.

Questioned by the magistrate, Dr. Bales said it was possible that the chemical had appeared inside the test after the baby spat it out.

John Parkes Rallison, a police staff officer in the Special Police Corps for Germany, said Mrs. Morse had made a statement that she found the baby sitting on the floor with a tin of metal polish in his hand. The child had a dirty colour about the mouth.

Later that night, the child became ill and died a few hours later.

The trial was adjourned till Thursday, China Mail Special.

Radio Hongkong

H.K.T. 6, Time Signal and Programme Summary, 6.55. Contact: A Radio Magazine for the Rising Generation with News, Views, Interviews, Stories and Music. Produced by Rosemary Richards (Studio); 6.55, Cantonese by Radio, Lesson 13, Prepared by S. K. Lee, assisted by Denis Bray and Lee Wal Len (Recorded); 6.55, Fred Waring and his Pennsylvania Orchestra with the Glee Club (Recorded); 7.00, News (London Relay); 7.10, News Talk (London Relay); 7.15, Special Attraction; 7.15, "In a Light Mood" with Robert Brookes at the Piano (Continued from the previous programme); 7.20, Questions from the Concert Hall of Radio Hongkong. Question Master: Patrick Burke; 7.25, Anne Menden, Faith Butler, John Little, Paddy Sheehan (Recorded); 8.00, Music Relay; 8.05, Looking back presented by the British Council (Studio); 8.10, Time Signal, Music (Continued from the previous programme); 8.15, The South Lectures; 8.20, The South Lectures; 8.25, The South Lectures; 8.30, The South Lectures; 8.35, The South Lectures; 8.40, The South Lectures; 8.45, The South Lectures; 8.50, The South Lectures; 8.55, The South Lectures; 9.00, The South Lectures; 9.05, The South Lectures; 9.10, The South Lectures; 9.15, The South Lectures; 9.20, The South Lectures; 9.25, The South Lectures; 9.30, The South Lectures; 9.35, The South Lectures; 9.40, The South Lectures; 9.45, The South Lectures; 9.50, The South Lectures; 9.55, The South Lectures; 10.00, The South Lectures; 10.05, The South Lectures; 10.10, The South Lectures; 10.15, The South Lectures; 10.20, The South Lectures; 10.25, The South Lectures; 10.30, The South Lectures; 10.35, The South Lectures; 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